(c) the special steps taken by Government of safeguard the interests of local people effected by extraction of the gold; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has reported occurrences of gold around Sonadehi, Kumarkatta-Parvelli-Gurpher, Sheetalpur-Bheldapani-Bazhar-Chancher and Puro-Michgaon Blocks in Baster region of Chhattisgam. The investigations carried out so far have only indicated presence of low-grade gold ore, which may not be economically viable to mine.

(c) and (d) As no mining activity has been initiated, the question does not arise.

**Increased activities of Pakistani and Chinese Armies on Border**

†4393. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that besides the activities of the Pakistani Army, activities of the Chinese Army have also increased on the Indian Border after the bitterness crept in the Indo-Pak relations;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction; and

(c) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There are no reports to indicate any increase in activities of the Chinese Army on the Indian border.

**Brahmos Missile**

4394. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian and Russia have jointly developed the Brahmos missile;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, it will be inducted into the armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India and Russia have undertaken design and development of most advanced supersonic cruise missile 'BRAHMOS' under a Joint Venture company.

(c) The first flight test took place on 12$^{m}$ June, 2001 and another successful flight was conducted on 28$^{.h}$ April, 2002. The development flight trials will be further progressed in 2002 and 2003. The production will commence by end of 2003 for induction in 2004.

**MIG-21 Aircrash in Jodhpur, Rajasthan**

4395. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Air Force MIG-21 aircraft crashed on 13$^{th}$ December, 2001 shortly before landing at a forward airbase, 70 km. from Jodhpur, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether inspite of giving assurances, number of MIG-21 crashes have taken place during December, 2001 to January, 2002;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons for air crash of MIG-21;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted; and

(e) if so, what are the steps Government propose to take to prevent the MIG-21 air crashes which are taking place on a considerable rate for several years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the months of December, 2001 and January, 2002 only one MIG-21 aircraft accident took place.

(c) Human Error (HE), Technical Defect (TD) and Bird Hit (I ) have been identified as the main causes of accidents by various Courts of Inquiry.